

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
H-218 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
2112 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

As you work to finalize the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations bills, we respectfully request a funding increase of at least 7 percent for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) compared to the Fiscal Year 2009 baseline level.


NIH is our nation's preeminent medical research institution and represents our best hope for finding cures, improving treatments, and gaining a better understanding of the diseases and conditions that affect millions of Americans. NIH research is a critical part of health care reform, strengthening our economy, inspiring the next generation of scientists and researchers, and maintaining our nation's leadership in innovation. NIH research is also essential to containing soaring medical costs. Studies show that a substantial portion of projected health care spending comes from expenses associated with managing diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer's, stroke, and many other chronic or life-threatening diseases.


As you know, over the past several years, funding for NIH has not kept pace with the costs of conducting biomedical research. As a result, promising research has not been funded, clinical trials have been delayed or terminated, jobs have been lost, and talented young investigators have turned to other careers. The recent boost in NIH funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5) is a very important step toward regaining the lost potential of the last several years. This investment will enable some of the most promising research projects that have long been sidelined to begin; we must not halt this momentum by failing to adequately support the NIH baseline budget.


For these reasons we are seeking an increase for NIH of at least 7 percent, with some of us believing that the appropriate funding increase would be as much as 10 percent. This level of funding is essential to sustain advances in science and the economic impacts of NIH-funded research.


We understand the challenges facing the Appropriations Committee and the difficulty in supporting priority issues with limited resources. Nonetheless, we urge you to consider the wide-ranging, positive effects of investment in research on health and the economy. We appreciate your consideration of our request.


Sincerely,



Rep. Edward J. Markey



Rep. David G. Reichert


Rep. Janice Schakowsky


Rep. Joe Courtney


Rep. Michael Castle


Rep. Susan Davis



Rep. Brian Bilbray


Rep. Henry A. Waxman



Rep. John D. Dingell


Rep. Howard L. Berman


Rep. Brian M. Higgins

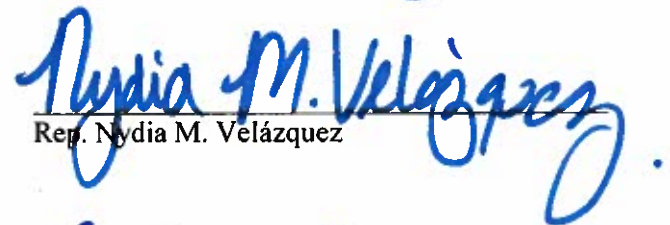

Rep. John Conyers, Jr.

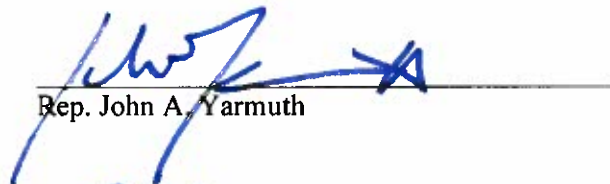

Rep. Tim Walz


Rep. Peter DeFazio


Rep. Carolyn Maloney


Rep. Mike Ross

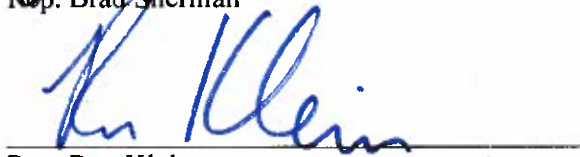

Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez

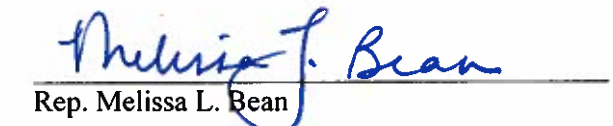

Rep. John A. Yarmuth


Rep. Carol Shea-Porter

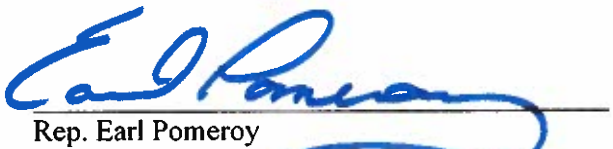

Rep. Brad Sherman



Rep. Rush Holt


Rep. Ron Klein

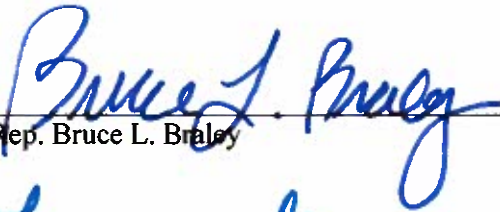

Rep. Melissa L. Bean


Rep. Ron Paul


Rep. Earl Pomeroy


Rep. Gene Green


Rep. Bobby Scott


Rep. Bruce L. Braley


Rep. Louise Slaughter

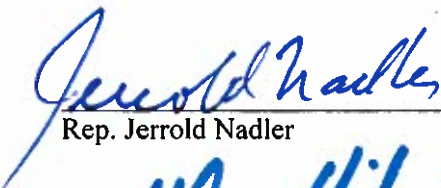

Rep. Jason Altmire



Rep. Diana DeGette


Rep. Frank LoBiondo


Rep. William Delahunt


Rep. Michael A. Arcuri

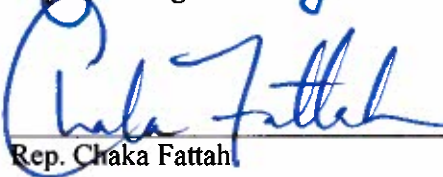

Rep. Jerrold Nadler


Rep. Maurice D. Hinchey


Rep. André Carson


Rep. Dina Titus


Rep. Jim Langevin


Rep. Chaka Fattah


Rep. Rick Larsen

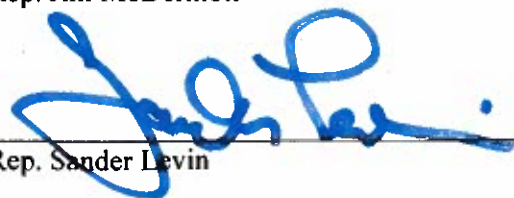

Rep. Earl Blumenauer


Rep. Jim Gerlach


Rep. Keith Ellison

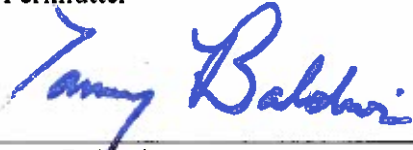

Rep. Judy Biggert


Rep. Jim McDermott


Rep. Sander Levin



Rep. Ed Perlmutter



Rep. Tammy Baldwin



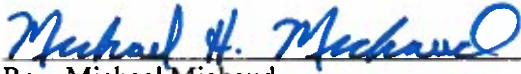
Rep. Chris Van Hollen



Rep. Mike McIntyre



Rep. Nick Rahall



Rep. Michael Michaud



Rep. Eliot Engel



Rep. Tim Holden



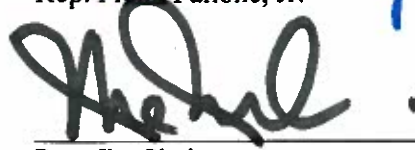
Rep. Bob Etheridge



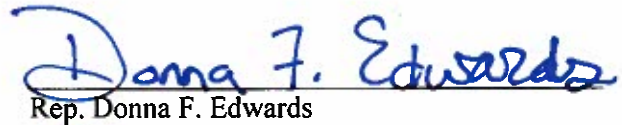
Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy



Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr.



Rep. Ike Skelton



Rep. Donna F. Edwards



Rep. John McHugh



Rep. Elijah Cummings



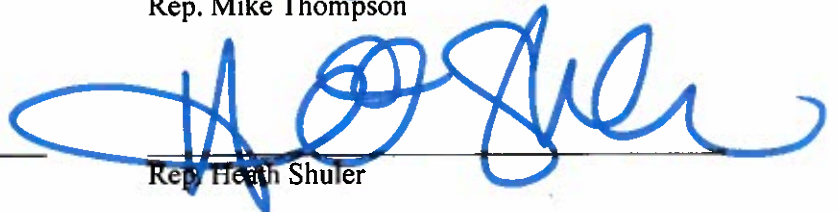
Rep. Pete Stark



Rep. Joe Sestak



Rep. Mike Thompson



Rep. Heath Shuler



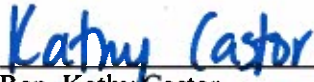
Rep. Russ Carnahan



Rep. Dale Kildee



Rep. Paul Hodes



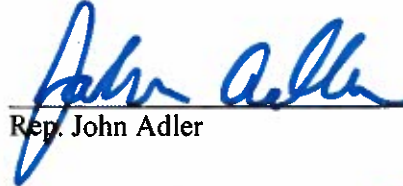
Rep. Kathy Castor



Rep. Christopher Carney



Rep. Michael E. Capuano



Rep. John Adler



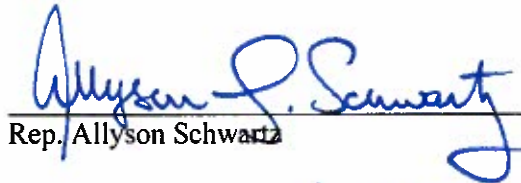
Rep. Steven Kagen



Rep. Gary C. Peters



Rep. Daniel Maffei



Rep. Allyson Schwartz



Rep. Adam Smith



Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich



Rep. Raul Grijalva



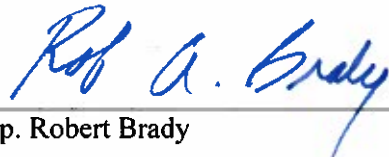
Rep. David Wu



Rep. Mazie Hirono



Rep. Michael Doyle



Rep. Robert Brady



Rep. Neil Abercrombie



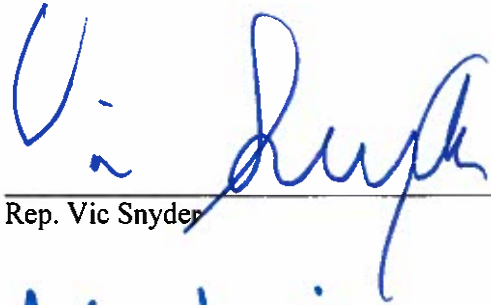
Rep. John Sarbanes



Rep. Charles Gonzalez



Rep. Ron Kind



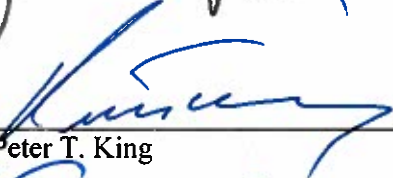
Rep. Vic Snyder



Rep. Gabrielle Giffords



Rep. John Lewis



Rep. Peter T. King



Rep. Lois Capps



Rep. Elton Gallegly



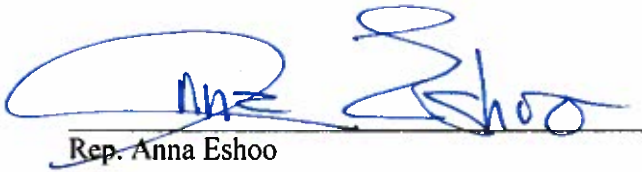
Rep. Eric Massa



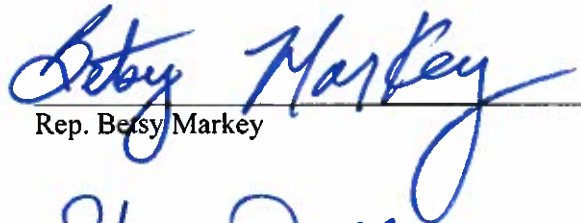
Rep. Leonard Lance



Rep. Lynn Woolsey



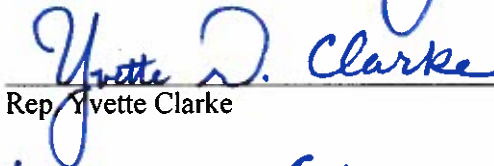
Rep. Anna Eshoo



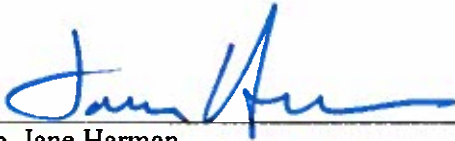
Rep. Betsy Markey



Rep. Harry Mitchell



Rep. Yvette Clarke



Rep. Jane Harman



Rep. Howard Coble



Rep. Glenn Nye




Rep. Edolphus Towns



Rep. Niki Tsongas



Rep. Eddice Bernice Johnson


Rep. Timothy W. Johnson


Rep. Kevin Brady



Rep. James McGovern


Rep. Linda T. Sánchez


Rep. Chris Murphy


Rep. Stephen Lynch


Rep. Todd Russell Platts


Rep. Rick Boucher


Rep. Doris O. Matsui


Rep. Shelley Berkley


Rep. Jim Marshall


Rep. Barney Frank



Rep. Brad Miller

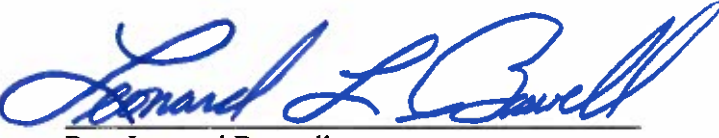

Rep. Timothy Bishop


Rep. James Oberstar


Rep. John Shimkus


Rep. David Price


Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay


Rep. Leonard Boswell


Rep. Scott Garrett



Rep. Bill Foster